

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

KENNY HILL.

Plaintiff,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
JOHN J. LAMANNA,
MARTY SAPKO,
DEBORAH FORSYTH,
STEPHEN HOUSLER

Defendants

) Docket No. 05-160E
) (Judge Susan Paradise Baxter)
)
) ELECTRONICALLY FILED PLEADING
)
) AMENDED COMPLAINT
)
) Filed on behalf of: Plaintiff, Kenny Hill
)
) Counsel of record for this party:
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AMENDED COMPLAINT

AND NOW, comes the plaintiff, Kenny Hill, by and through his counsel, Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C., and files the following as his Amended Complaint:

PARTIES

1. Kenny Hill, an adult individual, at all times relevant hereto was a citizen of the United States and committed as a prisoner to the custody of the U.S. Attorney General, whom at all times relevant to this action was a resident of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institution – McKean, P.O. Box 8000, Bradford, PA 16701-0980 (FCI – McKean).

2. Defendant John J. Lamanna is an adult individual and Chief Executive Officer (Warden) for FCI – McKean, and, at all times relevant hereto, acted as an agent and employee of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the United States of America.

3. Defendant Deborah Forsyth is an adult individual and Superintendent of Industries at UNICOR, located at the Federal Correctional Institution – McKean, and, at all times relevant hereto, acted as an agent and employee of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the United States of America.

4. Defendant Stephen Housler is an adult individual and the Safety Manager at UNICOR, located at the Federal Correctional Institution – McKean, and at all times relevant hereto, acted as an agent and employee of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the United States of America.

5. Defendant Marty Sapko is an adult individual and Factory Manager of UNICOR, located at the Federal Correctional Institution – McKean, and at all times relevant hereto, acted as an agent and employee of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the United States of America.

6. Defendant United States of America was, at all times relevant hereto, the operator of FCI – McKean and the employer of the individual defendants and is subject to suit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1346(b) and 28 U.S.C. §2671 *et seq.*

JURISDICTION

7. This Court has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. §1331(a) and 1361, Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 338, 91 S.Ct 1999 (1971), and 28 U.S.C. §1346(b).

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

8. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies with respect to the claims set forth herein in accordance with the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 42 U.S.C. §1997e *et seq.*, and 28 C.F.R. §§ 542.10-542.19.

FACTS

9. Plaintiff was designated to FCI-McKean on April 4, 2001 and remained incarcerated at that facility at all times relevant to this case.

10. FCI-McKean is a Federal Institution as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 500.1(d) and is subject to the standards or conduct and care mandated by 18 U.S.C § 4042.

11. In or about June, 2001, plaintiff was assigned to FCI-McKean's UNICOR facility, which engages in various aspects of the manufacture of furniture products.

12. As part of his job responsibilities at UNICOR, plaintiff regularly handled and worked with materials commonly known as Micore board, particleboard or tac-board and worked in and around areas where such boards were being cut, sanded and routed.

13. Additionally, plaintiff worked in and around areas where the adhesive commonly known as Locweld 860/861 was being used.

14. At the time of plaintiff's assignment to the UNICOR facility, defendants knew or were on notice that the materials and processes in use at the facility exposed plaintiff and other workers to serious risks and hazards, including exposure to silica dust from the use and alteration of Micore boards. Silica dust is a known carcinogen and a cause of serious respiratory ailments and conditions and other health problems.

15. Defendants were also on notice that the use of Locweld 860/861, a contact adhesive, in the UNICOR facility exposed plaintiff and other workers to serious risks and hazards including the risk of fire and health risks associated with the presence of fumes from Locweld 860/861.

16. Plaintiff's work in the UNICOR facility exposed him directly to silica dust, Locweld 860/861 fumes and other dangerous byproducts of the manufacturing process in concentrations greater than dust and material otherwise present in the ambient air of the facility.

17. Plaintiff and other workers were regularly instructed to clean machinery and work areas using pneumatic or other compressed air equipment, as well as brooms. These required cleaning activities further exacerbated exposure of plaintiff and other workers to airborne silica dust and other dangerous manufacturing byproducts.

18. The ventilation in the UNICOR facility was insufficient to prevent the noticeable and dangerous airborne accumulation of silica dust, Locweld 860/861 fumes and other manufacturing byproducts.

19. The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the Micore board and Locweld 860/861 and particleboard directed the use of respirators for individuals working in the conditions that were present at UNICOR.

20. At the time of plaintiff's assignment to UNICOR, defendants failed to inform or advise him concerning the risks and hazards associated with his employment at UNICOR, or concerning the contents of the relevant MSDS.

21. Based upon information and belief, one or more of the defendants altered the Micore board MSDS by crossing out the word "respirator" under the section devoted to personal protection and replacing it with the word "dust" in order to falsely indicate to UNICOR

workers that dust masks provided sufficient protection against inhalation of the airborne silica dust and other dangerous manufacturing byproducts that were present at in the UNICOR facility.

22. Throughout plaintiff's employment at the UNICOR facility, defendants had available respirators that complied with the requirements of the MSDS for both Micore board and Locweld 860/861, but failed and refused to make the respirators available to plaintiff and certain other workers.

23. The only respiratory protection provided to plaintiff was a "Do-it-Best" dust mask, which mask did not protect against silica, toxic or hazardous air contaminants and did not comply with the express requirements of the original MSDS for Micore board.

24. Defendants similarly failed to instruct or advise plaintiff or his co-workers concerning proper clean-up procedures, material handling procedures, procedures for the washing and handling of clothing worn during the handling and/or processing of Micore board or Locweld 860/861 or procedures concerning the avoidance or minimization of dust and fumes as a byproduct from the processing of Micore board, the use of Locweld 860/861 and other materials.

25. Defendants' actions and omissions relative to the dangers and hazards associated with Micore board and Locweld 860/861 were part of an overall pattern of deliberate indifference by defendants to the safety and health of workers at the UNICOR facility, which pattern included *inter alia* (1) allowing the accumulation of flammable vapors in the work area in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.106(e)(6)(i); (2) failure to provide appropriate instructions and training regarding chemicals in use at the workplace in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.1200(h)(2)(ii) and 29 C.F.R. §1910.1200(h); (3) allowing obstruction of proper airflow and air filtration within certain work areas in violation 29 C.F.R. §1910.107(b)(1); (4) permitting

installation of combustible materials within the spray booth of the UNICOR facility in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.107(b)(1); (5) failing to include appropriate sprinkler equipment in certain areas of the facility in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.107(b)(5)(iv); (6) allowing improper storage and obstructions around the paint booth of the facility in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.107(b)(9); (7) allowing combustible residue from manufacturing to accumulate in work areas in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.107(g)(2); (8) failing to provide and/or require use of protective equipment where reasonably necessary for the protection and safety of workers in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.132(a); (9) failure to observe required "lock-out/tag-out" procedures for the protection and safety of workers in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.147(d)(4)(i); (10) allowing storage of materials in a manner and location that created an unreasonable risk of fire or combustion within the facility in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.176(b), 29 C.F.R. §1910.252(a)(2)(vii), and 29 C.F.R. §1910.303 (g)(1)(i); (11) requiring operation of machines and other equipment within the facility that lacked proper guarding or other safety devices reasonably necessary for the protection and safety of workers in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.212(a)(1), 29 C.F.R. §1910.212(a)(3)(ii), 29 C.F.R. §1910.213(r)(4), and 29 C.F.R. §1910.119(c)(2)(i); (12) allowing the existence of conditions that unreasonably exposed workers to cave-in hazards while conducting work operations in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1926.651(j)(2); (13) failure to install or place guarding necessary to protect workers from the hazard of impalement in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1926.701(b); (14) failure to install railings necessary to protect workers from fall hazards in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.23(c)(1); and (15) failure to provide instruction and training regarding the proper use of respirators in the workplace in violation of 29 C.F.R. §1910.134(k)(6).

26. Throughout his employment at the UNICOR facility, plaintiff was repeatedly and consistently exposed to silica dust, vitreous fiber, perlite, slag wool, mineral wool, acetone, Toluene, Hexane isomers, N-hexane and other dangerous materials through aspiration, inhalation and direct contact with plaintiff's skin, lungs, sinuses and eyes.

27. As a result of the dangerous conditions that were permitted to exist at the UNICOR facility, plaintiff sustained personal injuries, many of which are believed to be permanent in nature, including chronic respiratory problems, sinusitis, irritation and damage to his lungs, sinuses, eyes and skin and sensitization to materials.

28. As a result of the dangerous conditions that were permitted to exist at the UNICOR facility, plaintiff has been placed at an increased risk of developing future diseases and health problems, including, but not limited to, cancer, Silicosis, Pneumoconiosis, emphysema, asthma, mycobacterium tuberculosis, nervous system disturbances and peripheral neuropathy.

COUNT I

Kenny Hill v. Individual Defendants

29. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 28 of this Complaint.

30. At all time relevant to this case, the individual defendants were employees and policymakers at FCI-McKean and were acting under color of Federal law.

31. The individual defendants, individually and in conjunction with one another, set policy with respect to working conditions at the UNICOR facility.

32. The individual defendants also directly supervised plaintiff and other workers at the UNICOR facility.

33. Based upon the actions identified above, the individual defendants acted with deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's health and safety.

34. As a direct result of the individual defendant's actions and the safety and work policies they established, plaintiff has been exposed to hazardous materials and dangerous working conditions that have resulted in serious health problems and conditions, some of which are believed to be permanent, and have placed plaintiff at an increased risk of developing future diseases, including, but not limited to, cancer, Silicosis, Pneumoconiosis, emphysema, asthma, mycobacterium tuberculosis, nervous system disturbances and peripheral neuropathy.

35. The individual defendants' actions have resulted in the deprivation of plaintiff's rights under the Fifth and Eighth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

36. The individual defendants are liable for the damages resulting from these constitutional deprivations pursuant to Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971).

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, Kenny Hill, respectfully requests judgment in his favor and against John J. Lamanna, Debra Forsyth, Marty Sapko and Stephen Housler for compensatory and punitive damages, attorney fees, interest and such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

COUNT II

Kenny Hill v. United States of America

37. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 36 of this Complaint.

38. At all times relevant hereto, the individual defendants were employees of the United States of America and were acting within the scope of their employment.

39. The individual defendants had a duty to care for the health and safety of plaintiff.

40. The individual defendants had a duty to provide plaintiff with a safe working environment and with appropriate safety equipment, including appropriate respiratory and skin protection.

41. The individual defendants breached their duties to plaintiff through their above-described actions, including their failure to provide a safe work environment and appropriate safety equipment.

42. As a result of these breaches, plaintiff has been subjected to hazardous materials and dangerous working conditions that have resulted in serious health problems and conditions, some of which are believed to be permanent, and have placed plaintiff at an increased risk of developing future diseases, including, but not limited to, cancer, Silicosis, Pneumoconiosis, emphysema, asthma, mycobacterium tuberculosis, nervous system disturbances and peripheral neuropathy.

43. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 2671 *et seq.* the United States is liable for the above-described negligent actions of the individual defendants.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, Kenny Hill, respectfully requests judgment in his favor and against the United States of America for compensatory damages, attorney fees, interest and such other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL &
SENNETT, P.C.

By: /s/ Richard A. Lanzillo, Esq.

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